

Winter Use Plan and EIS

Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks

John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Memorial Parkway



Newsletter – July 2006

PLANNING UPDATE

The National Park Service (NPS) is preparing a long-term plan for managing winter recreational use in Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Memorial Parkway. The initial public scoping phase of this Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process closed on September 1, 2005. The next formal public comment opportunity will be when the Draft EIS (DEIS) is released in winter 2006- 2007.

Now that the major task of writing the document is underway, the NPS winter use team is less available for roving team meetings. Nevertheless, the agency understands how important it is to foster quality, consistent, and transparent information exchange as it moves forward to the Draft EIS stage. While the NPS will not be able to accommodate all roving team meeting requests, it will do its best to honor them given the time and staffing available.

The purpose of this update is to provide information about the content and timing of the next steps in this EIS process.

NEXT STEPS

Currently, the NPS is working with contractors to complete modeling reports for air quality, soundscapes, and

socioeconomics. There will be a technical review period for these reports before they are incorporated into the DEIS. Also, the NPS is working with a contractor to write and compile the Draft EIS.

In late fall 2006, the NPS expects to have a preliminary DEIS available for technical review by cooperating agencies. The preliminary DEIS will be posted on the winter use website, and the NPS roving team may meet with the cooperating agencies. This roving team meeting (or meetings) would allow cooperating agencies and stakeholders to hear from the NPS, and one another, about the preliminary Draft EIS and the overall winter use planning process and timeline.

Formal public review and comment of the DEIS is anticipated in winter 2006-2007, with completion of the Final EIS anticipated in fall 2007.

INFORMATION ON WEBSITE

<http://www.nps.gov/yell/planvisit/winteruse/index.htm>

Recent additions to the website include:

- Summaries of NPS roving team meetings.
- Draft monitoring reports from the 2005-2006 winter season as they become available. Currently, a draft personal exposure monitoring report is available.

For more information, please visit: www.nps.gov/yell/winteruse.htm
You may also contact Yellowstone National Park at: 307-344-2019.